

Twenty-Five Questions to Ask about Technology

A Basic Analysis of Technology and Its Impacts

Jason Ohler © 1999 // jason.ohler@uas.alaska.edu // www.jasonohler.com

Part I. The Technology Itself

1. What does it do? What is it made of? Who can fix it?
2. Tool or Machine? (Regular behavior? How much do you direct?)
3. How does it extend/amplify you? How does it reduce/diminish you?

Part II. Social Context of the Technology

1. Did your parents have it at your age? Grandparents? How did they live without it?
2. Do your friends have it? Do people you admire have it?
3. Does your family consider it important?
4. Do you talk about it? In what way is it a lifestyle choice?

Part III. The Biases of the Technology

1. What does it encourage or discourage you to do?
2. What does it commodify?
3. Is the need for the technology real or created?
4. How it is sold to you? Media? Friends? Peer pressure?

Part IV. Impacts of the Technology

1. Environmental
2. Human body
3. Social, family
4. Work
5. Relationship with yourself
6. Power structure
7. Education
8. Other cultures
9. Future technologies

Part V. Final Analysis

1. How does it connect you, disconnect you?
2. Liberate vs. enslave you?
3. Empower vs. debilitate you?
4. Can it, should it be improved?
5. What if your final judgment of this technology?